### The Art of Place

A public outreach program to encourage creative perspectives on historic places



Program Guide

Let's say you live in South Dakota – maybe a small town, maybe a city, maybe a rural area – and you have some great historic resources in your community. Some people within your community want to raise awareness for those places. Some in your community love artwork – viewing it, making it, or buying it. What do you get when you add these elements together?

#### The Art of Place!

The Art of Place is a program designed to raise awareness for historic places in a community by inviting participants to create new artwork inspired by those places. Such a simple concept, but one with a big impact.

This program guide walks you through the Art of Place. It breaks down the event into small, manageable chunks. It shows you how to organize each piece of the event and tailor it to your own community. By following the advice in this program guide, you can bring the Art of Place to your community – because historic places are the heart and soul of South Dakota!

### Compiled by Liz Almlie and Kate Nelson October 2013

For more information contact: SD State Historic Preservation Office 900 Governors Drive Pierre SD 57501 605-773-3458

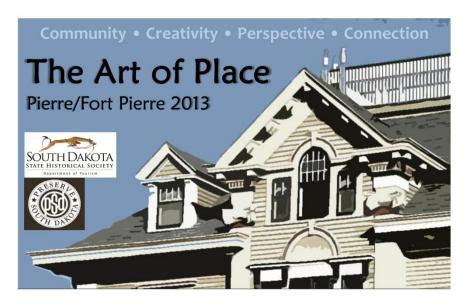
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### Introduction

The Art of Place is a program designed to raise awareness for historic places in a given geographical area or a specific historic place in need of higher public awareness. The program, which combines history and art into one unique event, examines an area's irreplaceable historic resources through a variety of workshops and the exhibition of new works of art that reflect those historic places.

The inaugural program in Pierre/Fort Pierre in 2013 kicked off with a day full of workshops that celebrated both history and art. The workshops included a tour of a local historic cemetery, an introduction to the Historic Preservation Commission's website and posted QR codes, a photography walk of a historic downtown, and a sketching session at a local historic place. Each workshop was designed to bring the two disciplines together in order to raise awareness for local historic places.



Following the workshop day, participants had just over a month to create new works of art based on those historic resources. Artists submitted photographs, paintings, and even a work of sculpture to be displayed at the local Oahe Days Arts and Music Festival. Participants looked at familiar places with an artist's eye and interpreted those places in new ways. The sky's the limit!

Eighteen artists registered to participate in The Art of Place: Pierre/Fort Pierre 2013.

In evaluation responses, artists who participated in the Pierre/Fort Pierre event chose their subjects because they were things they loved about the area, because of the aesthetic possibilities of downtown buildings, in order to add to a series or complete work they had already started, because they found the subject interesting, because the place had been overlooked, and because they were able to meet with the property owner for a tour.

What they liked best: seeing the art contributed by others; the subjects others chose; having the ability to display at Oahe Days; that the event encouraged art in the community; that it gave the public historical information; and that it was open to anyone and any type of artwork.



Artists arranging their work before the opening of Oahe Days.

# Planning

Give yourself time, and track your work on a written schedule. You may work with organizations that write their annual calendars and budgets a year ahead and/or only have meetings periodically. It may take a year or more to gather support and plan your first Art of Place.

Keep a list of contact information of organizers and participants, and note whether they have a preference about being contacted by mail, phone, or email.

#### A possible workflow:

- Recruit **organizations** interested in arts and history to partner with or support the event. Write **goals** and **evaluation forms**.
- Recruit program speakers and coordinate with property owners for any tours.
   Recruit additional volunteers to help set up, welcome participants and visitors to the programs and exhibit, and help troubleshoot any logistical problems.
- Contact, compare, and reserve **locations** for the exhibit and programs.
   Consider ease of access, parking, capacity, security, and available facilities.
   Will things like tables, chairs, display boards, or easels be provided or will they need to be borrowed or purchased?
- Design marketing **graphic(s)** and **press releases**. Make them clear, engaging, and relevant to the goals of the event. Ask for feedback from others on clarity of the visual element and the content. For printed signage, consider potential locations and what they will require for size, color, and water resistance.
- Write the **schedule** and **registration forms**. Choose one individual or organization to be the main contact point. Consider including statements on liability and photo releases. Have others review the documents for clarity and thoroughness. Have them available online, at a publicly-accessible building, and distributed among local arts and history organizations.
- **Market** the exhibit and any programs through multiple avenues. Attend meetings of local arts and history organizations to make the invitation in person.
- Send registered participants a **confirmation letter** with a detailed schedule, instructions for the submitting work, and any directions, maps, or other logistical information.
- **Thank** participants, organizers, and anyone who provided time or materials. Solicit **evaluations** from participants.

### Goals

To have an effective program and demonstrate its success, it is necessary to develop goals and objectives. They help focus planning and resources, they help you share the vision, and they guide the final evaluation. There may be a lot you want to accomplish, but choose the 3-5 goals that really mean success.

With your group of event leaders, discuss the following questions.

- Why link historic preservation with the arts?
- What impact do you want this event to have in your community?
- What do you want organizations, artists, the audience, and your local government to learn from the event?

Then write out your goals and objectives. "Goals" are what you want to achieve, and "objectives" are the steps you take to get there. In the objectives, write out what will be done, by when, and by whom. Use active verbs. Here is one example:

*Goal #1:* The Art of Place will encourage artists to spend time at historic places.

Objective #1a: History, Inc. will host a behind-the-scenes tour at the Historic Rehabilitation one week before the exhibit.

Objective #1b: City for the Arts will host a paint-in next to a City Landmark two weeks before the exhibit.

As you write your goals, consider that art creates emotional connections between the creator, viewer, and subject matter. Artists will have a unique perspective on the aesthetics and experience of historic places. This program encourages people to spend time at historic places and engage in person with historic architecture and landscapes. It offers a chance to share that experience by showing their work in a public forum.

### Evaluation

Evaluation is absolutely necessary for this, as any, program. Those who give of their time and/or money will want to see that it is a successful investment. Event leaders will want to know if their goals were met and how future events might be improved. Compile and summarize the results for use in future planning and marketing efforts.

A good evaluation will reflect on the project goals. When writing the evaluation, think about **indicators**—actions taken by participants or the public that you would be able to observe and record. How many registered for and attended the programs and the exhibit? Did artists spend an hour or more painting on-site at historic places, or learn something new about the community's history? Did organizers volunteer for the programs and exhibit, or spend time in conversation with artists and visitors? Did the public interact with volunteers or artists at the exhibit or ask for information about joining your organization?

A good program evaluation is drawn from multiple sources. You can use written questionnaires, in person interviews, and passive observations. You should look for both quantitative information like the numbers and demographics of participants, as well as qualitative information. Ask about their experience, their goals, and their suggestions. Write openended questions or use values on common scales that go from 1 to 10, or from Agree to Disagree.

Make questions clear and concise, directed towards the information you want to know but either neutral or balanced so that responses are not too biased to be useful.

To get as many good responses as possible, make it easy for participants to complete and submit the evaluation. Use consistent visuals from the event, like graphics or document formatting. Consider making the evaluation one page and including a pre-paid envelope, or having an easy-to-submit online survey. Send your thanks to them for their participation at the same time you send the evaluation.

## **Partnerships**

In order to make the most of the Art of Place event, plan to include both history-related organizations and arts organizations. Remember, you want to raise awareness for local historic places by creating new works of art that represent those places, so it is crucial to have the support and participation of both history and arts organizations that work in your local community. Partnering with or participating in established arts festivals, workshop series, or plein air (painting outdoors) events may give you access to established public audiences and provide the extra marketing boost to help make the event a success.

To help maintain a smooth planning process and consistent messaging, have one or two organizations step up to be primary organizers or assemble a small coordinating committee drawn from each organization. Other supporters might be in charge of certain programs or just promote the event among their members.

For the inaugural Art of Place event in Pierre/Fort Pierre in 2013, the following organizations were involved:

- South Dakota State
   Historic Preservation Office
- Preserve South Dakota
- Pierre/Fort Pierre Historic Preservation Commission
- Canvasbacks Art Club
- Short Grass Arts Council
- Central South Dakota Photography Club
- South Dakota State Archives



Art of Place coordinator, Kate Nelson, and Sara Casper who volunteered at the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society's adjacent booth, at Oahe Days, June 2013

## Program Ideas

To better engage the artists and the general public with the Art of Place event and with historic places in your community, consider programming in addition to the public exhibit. Find creative ways to welcome, celebrate, and engage. Be aware that your audience could be curious beginners or experts seeking professional development. Consider the messenger, and recruit speakers with diverse professions, ages, or ethnic groups in your community.

One option is to hold multiple programs in one day sometime before the exhibit. Another option could be to lead up to the exhibit with a series of programs. If your version of the event is more like a traditional plein air event, artists might be pressed for time, but consider diversifying the experience by having other programs or receptions at meal times or in the evening.

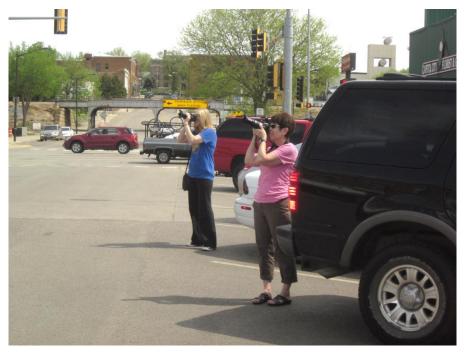
Here are some ideas to get you started...

- Gather a group of artists to create artwork at a historic place for a **Paint-In** or short **Plein Air** session.
- Hold a **historic tour** of a building or district. Consider creative options like behind-the-scenes tours, a talk with the owner of a recent restoration or rehabilitation, living history presentations, after-dark tours, loft tours, pub crawls, or themed tours about specific eras, building materials, architects, etc.

Ken Stewart (South Dakota State Archives) leads a historical tour of Riverview Cemetery, Pierre.



• Group **Photo Walks** at historic locations are excellent ways for photographers to socialize, share expertise, and spend quality time at a historic place.



The Central South
Dakota Photography
Club organized a
photo walk in
downtown Pierre.

- Focus a program around the **installation of public art** or **sculpture walk tour** in a historic area.
- Have participants create murals or other large-scale artwork that re-imagine
  the future of vacant historic buildings, and display them in a publicly-visible
  way at the building.
- Host an **informal gathering** for participants at a historic place. Have a reception in a building undergoing rehabilitation, a block party in a historic neighborhood, or a concert in a historic park.
- Sponsor a **creative public engagement** project like the "Before I die, I want to..." board used at Yankton's Meridian Bridge in 2012 and in downtown Aberdeen in 2013 (<a href="http://beforeidie.cc/">http://beforeidie.cc/</a>) or the "I Wish This Was..." stickers (<a href="http://iwishthiswas.cc/">http://iwishthiswas.cc/</a>).
- Hold **youth events** like art workshops, free-play art creation, historic district scavenger hunts, and photo walks, or have them interview older family members or friends about community history.

# Marketing and Publicity

You have a great program coming up – one that will celebrate history and art in a fun way! But in order to have a successful event, you have to make people aware of your great program, and that is where marketing and publicity come in. Start marketing the event several months before it begins so that participants can schedule the time needed to create artwork and attend programs.

This event is designed to be very open and inclusive, to bring together community members with different interests, ages, genders, and backgrounds. Use multiple approaches in order to reach the different audiences who read newspapers, listen to local radio, and use online social media. Craft messages to be clear, easy-to-read, welcoming, eye-catching, and informative. Provide essential details so that people are not worried about what time to arrive, where to park, what entrance to use, or what to bring.

For the Pierre/Fort Pierre event in 2013, organizers used the following strategies:

- Periodic posts on Facebook from all partner organizations with a social media presence.
- Posted the event on calendars from all partner organizations and community media outlets, chambers of commerce, downtown or historic neighborhood associations.
- Event information submitted to local access TV.
- Press releases and story ideas pitched to local newspapers.
- Appearances on local radio programs for community projects and upcoming events.
- E-newsletters like CANMail from South Dakotans for the Arts & SD Community Arts Network.
- Distributed "Save the Date" postcards or email invitations to members of local arts and history organizations.

Design a recognizable logo to use on all registration materials, printed information, signage, and websites/social media. It should be clear, readable, and uncluttered. Try using high-contrast and strong lines in the composition. Vary font size, but try not to use more than two font styles.



We designed our logo in Microsoft Power Point, using the coordinating organizations' individual logos and a photograph taken in a local historic neighborhood then stylized in the program. We set up the slide page to be poster-sized and saved the slide both large resolution and compressed image files. We tested multiple combinations of images and font styles and sizes amongst our colleagues. The logo was used online, on forms, and printed as water-resistant signs used at workshop sites and the Oahe Days exhibit.





Clockwise from left: Flyer distributed to local artists, posted on website, and sent through an arts e-newsletter; An insert in the newsletter of the Minnehaha County Historical Society; Logo used as header for workshop schedule.

## Exhibit and Display

If possible, choose an established venue for your exhibit, like a local art gallery, museum, or arts festival. At the Oahe Days Arts and Music Festival in Pierre, we found that their publicity and built-in audience helped guaranteed foot traffic for our exhibit. Because we registered as a non-profit and did not sell the artwork, booth space was provided at no cost and management of the show was simpler. If you elect to sell artwork, artists may provide higher quality work and visitors would have the chance to take artwork home.

If such venues are not available or feasible for your schedule, look for locations that reflect the cross-over art and history theme. Consider open-space venues in buildings in need of, undergoing, or having recently completed a historic rehabilitation. In this scenario, the building itself could become part of the exhibit! However, make sure the building is safe and accessible for the general public. As a standalone event, you will have to do more publicity to get a good turnout than if you partner with an established event.



Depending on the space available, you may need to set limits on the size or number of submissions from each participating artist. For hanging pieces, you will need wall space and/or display boards for mounting. For sculpture or other standing pieces, you will need tables or open shelves for display.



Make sure lighting is adequate to view the artwork easily—large windows, extra lamps, light-colored walls. Provide cards next to the artwork (possibly printed with the event logo) for the artists to post their name, the title, date, media, and any other details that might be relevant. Have materials about the event and membership information available about all the organizations who participated in the event.

Make sure there is an appropriate amount of space so that the pieces are not too cluttered or too sparse. The audience will need room to move around and the ability to examine each piece with limited visual distractions. Try sketching out the exhibit floor plan and visit the space ahead of time—would you feel welcome in that space? Consider diverse ages and levels of mobility.



### Other Models

#### **Painting for Preservation**

Painting for Preservation is an artists' initiative founded by Sara M. Zak that hosts "art-in" events and exhibits in Buffalo, New York (photos below). From their website: "This initiative is aimed at drawing attention to distressed, at-risk, and under-utilized historic locations through on site art making." Follow their blog with examples of events and artwork on Facebook and at

http://paintingforpreservation.blogspot.com/.

*Mission*: To bring together artists of all media in support of historic distressed properties and communities. To create artwork on-site related to the location as a means of raising positive awareness of the space.

#### Goals:

- Raise awareness of at-risk, distressed and under-utilized locations and their neighborhoods.
- Create a record of historically rich locations through art.
- Create a community of artists invested in the urban landscape.
- Bring exposure and provide assistance to artists interested in documenting at-risk historic neighborhoods while also collaborating with members of those same neighborhoods.
- Involve communities in sharing their stories of local historic architecture and their neighborhoods.

Contact information: info@paintingforpreservation.org





#### Quick Draw Plein Air

D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives in Spearfish, SD: "In celebration of Spearfish turning 125, local artists were invited to the hatchery on Sept. 14 from 4-5:30pm to complete a 'quick draw' of the hatchery. Rainy weather deterred most artists, but three came and completed gorgeous paintings in just an hour and a half! The public voted on their favorite afterwards." Typically, "quick draws" are plein air events lasting three hours or less.





#### Paint Historic Waxahachie (Texas)

#### http://waxapreservation.com/features/plein\_air.html

"For several years the event known as Paint Historic Waxahachie has taken place in conjunction with the annual Gingerbread Trail which provides tours of local historic homes. During the paint-out, some 50 artists compete for prize money and awards and offer their completed paintings for sale....

While plein air painting is nothing new, 'plein air' events are at an all-time high with annual competitions scattered across the country. The common thread of these events is usually that the surrounding area boasts a wealth of historic structures which provide ample subject matter for artists to render in paint. Here in Waxahachie, artists paint throughout specific historic residential districts, the downtown Courthouse Square and adjacent business district. Along with the obvious benefits of attracting tourists, art lovers, participating artists and raising money for a cause (such as the Ellis County Art Association), plein air events create an awareness of the value of preservation in historic communities....

Each artist is encouraged to set up shop in front of the homes on tour... During the week-long event all of the paintings created, which number in the hundreds, are offered for sale to the public."







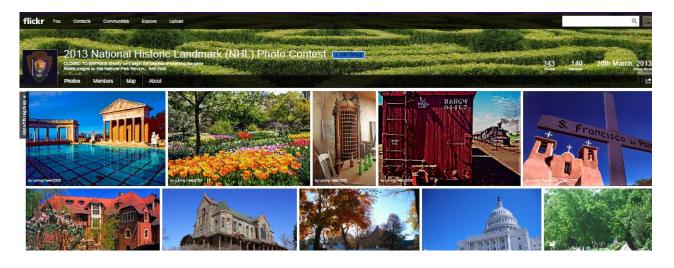
### Center City Open House (Texas)

"For one night only, a vacant space will go from empty to vibrant through an incredible evening full of art, dance, music, and fashion. The Center City Development Office, the Office of Historic Preservation, and the Department for Culture and Creative Development are partnering to host the first Center City Open House event... This unique networking opportunity will showcase an underutilized space and encourage investment in San Antonio's vacant historic buildings."

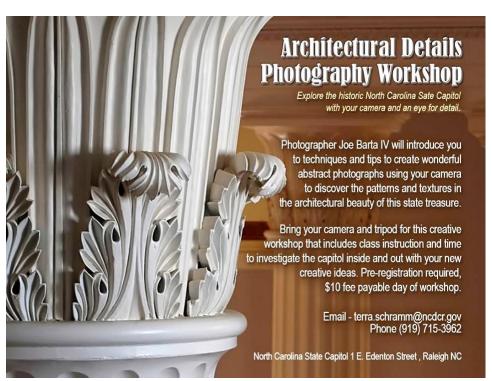
Arts elements included a window painting across the façade of the building, a ballet performance, and a fashion show. The event was offered free and open to the public with free parking provided. Over 300 people attended. The Center City Development Office plans to hold similar events quarterly to highlight historic and underutilized buildings in San Antonio's downtown.

#### **Photography Contests**

From the NHL Photo Contest Flickr page: "In this, the 14th year of the National Historic Landmarks Photo Contest, we invite you to share —in your own photographs and words—your experience of your favorite National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) across the country.... The 14th Annual National Historic Landmark Photo Contest page will be open for entries from Monday, April 1, 2013, through Tuesday, July 9, 2013 (midnight EST). Photographers must accept the contest rules before they can enter. Images must be tagged 2013NHLPhotoContest AND added to the group pool." Rules required that photographers submit only one photo per NHL and only up to 10 photos per photographer.



### Photography Workshops



## Appendix A

# Sample Planning Schedule (for program mid-May and exhibit mid-June)

- Recruit supporting organizations [October/November]
- Write plan, schedule, volunteer task descriptions, & potential budget [November-January]
- Arrange place for workshops, programs, & exhibit [January/February]
- Arrange for program speakers and plan out logistics (max attendance, needed materials, accessibility) [January-March]
- Write up registration form, schedule, goals & evaluations, marketing materials [February/March]
- Print and distribute registrations, and begin marketing for programs [April]
- Print and send receipt of registration and any confirmation materials [April]
- Confirm details with host sites, presenters, volunteers [late April]
- Assemble program materials [early May]
- Reminder to registered participants [mid-May]
- Collect program evaluations from participants and hosts [at event]
- Marketing for exhibit [May]
- Send reminders/encouragement to participants, with instructions for exhibit set-up and take-down [early June]
- Set up exhibit display, signage (including info on organizations), and artwork [mid-June]
- Take down exhibit and thank participants [at take-down]
- Collect exhibit evaluations from participants and hosts [late June]

# Appendix B

### Sample Evaluation Form (Workshops/Programs)

May Thank Histor	Art of Place 18, 2013 you for participating to Preservation Mon r the following ques	th Activity! Ple	ase take time	to	The Art of Place Pierre/Fort Pierre 2013
juide	before departing.				
1.	How did you hear ab	out this event?			
2.	What did you like bes	st about the ses	ssion?		
3.	What is something ne	ew you learned	?		
4.	How well did we offer opportunities for your participation and interaction?				nd interaction?
	1 Not well at all	2	3	4	5 Extremely well
5.	How well did this ses	sion fit your ex	pectations?		
	1 Not well at all	2	3	4	5 Extremely well
6.	How well did the lead	der communica	te the informati	ion?	
	1 Not well at all	2	3	4	5 Extremely well
7.	How would you rate	the length of the	e session?		
	Too Short	Just	Right	T00 l	Long
8.	Please add any addit the future.	tional comment	s you feel wou	ld help u	us improve similar events in

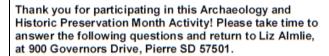




Pierre/Fort Pierre Historic Preservation Commission

### Sample Evaluation Form (Exhibit)

#### The Art of Place June 22-23, 2013



1. How did you hear about this event?

2. What did you like best about the event?



3.	Being as detailed or generic as you would like, how and why did you choose the historic
	place you did?

4	How well did we	offer opportunities	for your participation and	interaction?

	1 Not well at all	2	3	4	5 Extremely well
5.	How well did the ever	nt fit y	our expectations?		
	1 Not well at all	2	3	4	5 Extremely well
6.	How well did the orga	nizer	s communicate inform	nation ar	nd respond to concerns?
	1 Not well at all	2	3	4	5 Extremely well

7. OPTIONAL: Are you...? □ Male □ Female

□ 18 yrs or younger □ 19-29 □ 30-39 □ 40-49 □ 50-59 □ 60-69 □ 70 yrs or older

8. Please add any additional comments you feel would help us improve similar events in the future. Use the back of the paper if necessary.





Pierre/Fort Pierre Historic Preservation Commission

# Appendix C

### Sample Program Schedule, single day

#### The Art of Place: Pierre/Fort Pierre 2013











#### KICKOFF DAY SCHEDULE Saturday, May 18th

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Doors are open at our HQ - the Pierre Area Senior Center (401W. Pleasant Ave). Stop by for workshops, artistic challenges, information about participating organizations, friendly conversation, and refreshments.

9:00 am - 10:00am

#### A Verendrye Morning

Sponsored by the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office

Meet at the Verendrye Monument on Verendrye Drive in Fort Pierre. Map attached.

The year 2013 marks 100 years since the Verendrye plate was discovered on a hill overlooking Fort Pierre and the Missouri River after being laid there in 1743 by French explorers Francois and Louis-Joseph Verendrye. Join us for an open-format sketching session at this National Historic Landmark. The view is great practice for techniques of composition and perspective! Basic copy paper and pencils will be provided. Feel free to bring cameras, sketchbooks, paints, and/or other drawing materials. Please provide your own chair or blanket if you wish to use one.

10:00 am - 11:00 am

#### History in the Palm of Your Hand

Sponsored by the Pierre/Fort Pierre Historic Preservation Commission

Meet at the Pierre Area Senior Center.

Did you know you have access to historic places in the palm of your hand? The Pierre/Fort Pierre Historic Preservation Commission's new QR code program lets anyone with a smart phone access historical photographs and stories while on location. Learn a bout the programs' possibilities direct from commission members and test it out!

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

#### Pierre Street Photo Walk

Sponsored by Central South Dakota Photography Club

Meet at the Pieme Area Senior Center.

Anyone is welcome to join us as we walk along upper and lower sections of historic Pierre Street looking for photographs that capture architectural gems and life in a historic downtown.

Lunch on Your Own: Or bring your lunch to HQ!

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

#### Photographs with Sunlight: Sun Prints

Sponsored by Canvasbacks Art Club

Meet at the Pierre Area Senior Center.

Youth (suggested 3rd grade & up) are invited to use the power of the sun to "photograph" objects on special paper to create unique works of art. If supplies permit, parents & other adults are welcome to try it out, too!

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

#### Cemetery Tour

Sponsored by Preserve South Dakota

Meet at Riverside Cemetery off of South Roosevelt Ave. Map attached.

Participants will go on a guided tour of Riverside Cemetery to hear stories of Pierre's early residents and their efforts to build the town of Pieme.

# Appendix D

### Sample Registration Form

The Art of Place: Registration Form  Community • Creativity • Perspective • Connection  The Art of Place				
By May 18, 2013, please return registration form to: Liz Almlie, SD Historic Preservation Office 900 Governors Drive, Pierre SD 57501 liz.almlie@state.sd.us				
Name:				
If under 18, Age: Name of Parent/G	uardian:			
Address				
City	State Zip			
Phone				
Email				
Preferred method of contact: Regula	r Mail Email Phone			
I am interested in volunteering to staff the Oahe Days booth on: Saturday, June 22 Sunday, June 23				
I hereby grant the project sponsors the right to use my name and image of me/my child in photographic documentation of "The Art of Place: Pierre/Fort Pierre 2013" and promotion of similar future events in print or digital materials. I expressly release the project sponsors from any and all claims which I or my child may have in connection with the use of my or my child's name and image for this purpose, and I agree that in no event will I or my child be entitled to seek injunctive relief against the project sponsors. Artwork may be visible in wider scenes, but specific images of individual pieces of artwork will not be collected or used by the project sponsors unless separate written permission is granted by the artist.				
If I do not come collect my work on Saturday night, I grant the project sponsors the right to carefully pack and store my work overnight and set it up again on Sunday morning. Though every effort is made to protect all artwork during the weekend, the South Dakota State Historical Society and Preserve South Dakota (project sponsors) cannot be liable for any lost or damaged art.				
By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing and agree to be bound by its contents.				
Signature				
Date				
Parent/Guardian Signature for youth under 18 years				
Date				